

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

This application is a divisional of the co-pending, commonly assigned, United States Patent Application Serial No.: 09/314,701, filed on May 19, 1999, which claims priority from U.S. Provisional Application, filed on September 18, 1998.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-14 and 21-23 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following claims:

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B1  
24. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein the polypeptide is an antigenic fragment of SEQ ID NO: 32.

A2  
25. (New) A method for diagnosing an *E. canis* infection in an animal comprising:

a) contacting a serum sample from the animal with an *E. canis* P30 protein or an antigenic fragment of the *E. canis* P30 protein, wherein said *E. canis* P30 protein comprises amino acid 26 through amino acid 288 of SEQ ID NO: 32, and

b) assaying for the formation of complex between antibodies in the serum sample and the *E. canis* protein or the antigenic fragment of the *E. canis* P30 protein, wherein formation of said complex is indicative of infection with *E. canis*.

26. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein said antigenic fragment comprises amino acid 33 through amino acid 224 of SEQ ID NO. 32.

27. (New) The antibody of claim 20 wherein said antibody binds to the *E. canis* P30 protein and wherein the *E. canis* P30 protein comprises amino acid 26 through amino acid 288 of SEQ ID NO: 32.

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B1  
28. (New) A kit for diagnosing *E. canis* in an animal, said kit comprising the *E. canis* P30 protein, an antigenic fragment of the *E. canis* P30 protein, or both.

29. (New) The kit of claim 27 wherein said antigenic fragment comprises amino acid 33 through amino acid 224 of SEQ ID NO. 32.

A<sup>2</sup>  
B<sup>1</sup>  
30. (New) ~~The kit of claim 27 further comprising a biomolecule for detecting interaction between the reagent and antibodies in a bodily sample of the animal.~~

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